Issue of visas to Foreign Tourists

3223. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for issuing visa after a person lands in India;

(b) if so, whether the Home and External Affairs Ministries have opposed this proposal;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for opposing it; and

(d) whether it will be extended to certain selected countries or to all the countries?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (d) Proposal for issue of visa on arrival was considered earlier but not found feasible due to legal, administrative, infrastructural and security constraints. However, this issue is being re-examined.

Overseas Publicity Budget

3224. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of budget of Tourism Ministry spent on publicity abroad and maintaining offices there; and

(b) the manner in which the remaining percentage of the budget is spent and how it helps Government in developing tourism in the country particularly in Bihar and West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) During 2000-2001, 37% of the Plan Budget of the Department of Tourism is to be spent on publicity abroad and 55% of the Non-Plan Budget is to be spent on maintenance of these offices.

(b) The remaining Budget is spent on Central Financial Assistance to State Governments, human resource development, interest subsidy to hotels, domestic promotion, production of literature and publicity

material, professional services, information technology and other establishment charges. Central Financial Assistance to States and interest subsidy to hotels directly help the States in creating tourist infrastructure. The States of Bihar and West Bengal are also given financial assistance for development of tourist infrastructure and promotional measures are undertaken to promote tourist destination in these two States also.

New libraries by Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation

3225. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation was created to promote establishment of new libraries and equip the existing libraries with new titles; if so, how many new libraries have been established by the Foundation during 1999-2000;

(b) the total amount of funds spent on supply of books during 1999-2000;

(c) what steps are taken by the Foundation to motivate States which have not shown any interest in the scheme; and

(d) the States which have no library legislation yet and what steps the Foundation is taking to persuade them to do so?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF) under its different schemes spent Rs. 5,78,81,260 during 1999-2000.

(c) All States, except Jammu and Kashmir are taking interest in the RRRLF's schemes for development of a library movement in the country. With a view to creating more interest, the Foundation has been continuously keeping in touch with the Government and non-governmental agencies through correspondence and by organizing seminars and conferences with local academics, distinguished professionals, media and political key persons, etc.

(d) The following States have not yet enacted any Library Legislation:—

(1) Assam